

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 31-56 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claims 31-56 are added by the foregoing amendments. No new matter is added.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 14, 15, 18-21, 23-36, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,583,813 B1 to Enright et al. (hereinafter "Enright"); Claims 4, 6-9, 11-13, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Enright in view of U.S. Patent 6,606,451 B2 to Honda et al. (hereinafter "Honda"); Claims 16, 17, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Enright in view of U.S. Patent 5,987,469 to Lewis et al. (hereinafter "Lewis"); and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Enright and Honda in view of Lewis.

As Claims 1-30 are canceled by the foregoing amendments, the rejections of those claims are moot. Nevertheless, Applicants now address those rejections with respect to new Claims 31-56.

Though they are different in scope, each of independent Claims 31-33 is directed to a filing system including an access management unit configured to correlate owner identifications, with the stored image data in the image storage medium, to correlate re-use owner identifications of users who are at least one of a user unit and a group unit allowed to retrieve or read the stored image data, with the stored image data in the image storage medium, and to allow the stored image data to be accessed when any of the owner

¹ Support for new Claims 31-56 is self-evident from originally-filed Claims 1-30 and the non-limiting of examples of the claimed features discussed herein.

identifications or the re-use owner identifications correlated with the stored image data is verified.

Each of Claims 31-33 also recite an owner identification acquiring unit and a re-use owner identification acquiring unit configured to acquire the owner identifications and re-use owner identifications, plus further respective features of those acquiring units, as follows.

Claim 31 further recites that at least one of those acquiring units includes a list displaying unit configured to display a part of a list of the owner identifications or the re-use owner identifications based on a user selection number counted for each of the owner identifications or the re-use owner identifications by a user selection number counting unit, so that one of the owner identifications or the re-use owner identifications is selected from among the displayed list. Claims 34-38 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 31.

Claim 32 further recites that at least one of those acquiring units are configured to acquire the owner identifications or the re-use owner identifications based on a sequence of selections from a displayed list of the owner identifications or the re-use owner identifications by a selection input unit, so that one of the owner identifications or the re-use owner identifications is selected from among the displayed list. Independent Claims 39, 44, 49, and 53 recite similar subject matter. Claims 30-32, 45-48, 50-52, and 54-56 depend directly or indirectly from Claims 39, 44, 49, and 53, respectively.

Independent Claim 33 further recites that at least one of those acquiring units is configured to display, when a data capturing unit is provided in the data processing apparatus having at least two of a copying function, a facsimile function, a scanning function, and a printing function, a list of the owner identifications or the re-use owner identifications on a display screen of a selection input unit of the data processing apparatus, so that one of the owner identifications or the re-use owner identifications is selected from among the displayed list.

Thus, each of the above-noted independent claims recites an access management unit configured to correlate identifications to image data; and recites the further limitation of at least one of an owner identification acquiring unit and re-use owner identification acquiring unit configured to either: (1) display a partial list of identifications based on a user selection number counted for each of the identifications; (2) acquire identifications based on a sequence of selections from a displayed list of the identifications; or (3) display a list of identifications on a display screen.

Figure 3 illustrates a non-limiting example of these further limitations. More particularly, Figure 3 illustrates a touch panel 105 having user selection buttons 302 and frequently selected user buttons 306.² The frequent selection buttons 306 indicate a list of identifications which have a higher frequency of selection. When the displayed buttons 302, 306 are depressed, a controller 110 correlates the identifications corresponding to the depressed buttons 302, 306 with recently captured image data. The frequent selection buttons 306 indicate a list of identifications which have a higher frequency of selection.³

In this manner, identifications of the authorized users for a document that needs to be exchanged are created when the image data is first captured. The image data and identifications are correlated such that the stored image data can be conveniently and securely accessed by only authorized users. The filing system provides increased operability and availability of image data that is stored, reproduced, transmitted, or retrieved by only authorized users.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Enright nor the applied secondary references, i.e., Yamazaki, Honda, and Lewis, teach the above-noted features of the claimed inventions. For instance, Enright merely discloses a system in which image data captured by

² Specification, page 19, lines 19-23.

³ Specification, page 18, line 9 to page 19, line 18.

a network camera or digital camera is transmitted to a host computer; and in which the captured image data is stored in a recording medium and is then retrieved and displayed.

Enright is silent as to the manner in which the stored image data is retrieved or output.


Moreover, Enright is silent as to the above-noted further limitations (1) to (3).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Enright does not teach the above-noted features of the claimed invention; and further respectfully submit that neither Yamazaki, Honda, nor Lewis cures the deficiencies of Enright.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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